



Travel, Research, and Educational Experience (TREE) Grant Program

**Final Report to the Joint Fire Sciences Program
by the Association for Fire Ecology
Cooperative Agreement No. L11AC20108
JFSP Project Number 11-S-2-07
September 30, 2011**

The Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) is managing the Joint Fire Science Program's (JFSP) student travel assistance project that we are calling the Travel, Research, and Educational Experience (TREE) Grant Program. TREE grants provide funding that enables graduate and undergraduate students to travel to fire conferences, symposia, workshops, and laboratories. The objectives of the TREE grant program are to nurture student research through active participation in conferences and in laboratories; and to get student researchers interacting and networking with other researchers and managers so they develop opportunities for future employment, internships, and/or collaboration on research and management projects. TREE grants thus represent an investment in the next generation of professional fire researchers, educators, and managers.

Outreach and Advertising of the TREE Grant Program

Conducting outreach to promote the TREE Grant Program was challenging because the program was not finalized until several schools (especially those under semester systems) had ended their academic year, and students had left for the summer. We advertised TREE Grants on the AFE website and in the AFE quarterly bulletin that is received by all AFE members, many of whom are academics. We also sent out special announcements and flyers to all chapters of the Student Association for Fire Ecology (SAFE), and asked them to distribute these to all of their contacts. We developed a comprehensive list of names and email addresses of all teachers of fire courses at the major universities that host fire-related programs or courses, and sent them outreach materials advertising TREE Grants (see Appendix Three). Much as we expected, we received few requests for TREE grant applications until students returned to school in the fall. If the program is renewed for 2012, we plan on displaying outreach materials at three upcoming fire conferences.

TREE Grant Applications

We developed a simple two-page application form that provided basic information on the student and their intended use of TREE grant funds (see Appendix Two). Application forms and instructions were made available on the AFE website. Proposals for TREE grants required a completed application form and additional items that provided the following information:

- a description of proposed travel and how it benefits the student's specific research, including a brief description of the objectives, approach, and significance of research project;

- a simple budget outlining estimated travel costs and/or related research or presentation costs;
- signature and comments from the student's advisor verifying the need for travel assistance; and
- student's curriculum vitae or resume.

The AFE Awards Committee reviewed the applications and decided on the amount of each grant. Grant applications were judged on the basis of their scientific merit, the credentials of the applicant, and the relevance of their research to JFSP goals. The Awards Committee wanted to provide travel opportunities to as many students as possible, so they decided to fund every applicant this year. Some applicants asked for small amounts (e.g. \$500) and their requests were fully funded. Others asked for the maximum amount (\$2,500) but were partially funded in the amount of \$1,350, our top award amount for individuals in order to provide funding for all applicants. One student submitted a grant on behalf of eight students and this was the only maximum grant (\$2,500) awarded.

Grant Awardees

A total of 18 students applied and received TREE Grants (see Appendix One). They represent 13 different universities from nine states spanning the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast. Nine students are in Master's programs, seven are in Doctoral programs, and two students (including eight additional students funded by the same grant) are in Bachelor's programs. TREE Grant awardees represent most of the major universities hosting fire science or fire management programs, so this important goal of the grant program—to facilitate travel by a diversity of students from all academic levels and geographic locations—was met this year. All students have been informed about their grant awards, and in all cases they have responded with much enthusiasm and gratitude for the opportunity to travel to their desired events.

Grants will be awarded as lump sum payments and distributed by personal check directly to the students. AFE has allocated all funds, but has not yet received funds from the federal system since all money transfers have been temporarily suspended in order to facilitate close-out of the federal fiscal year. Payments are expected to occur the first week of October, 2011. Within six to nine months of receiving their awards, students must complete a report that describes their travel experience and accomplishments, and includes a summary of expenses. Students are expected to keep detailed records of their travel expenses for their personal files, but these are not be required by AFE.

Students' Intended Uses of TREE Grant Funds

TREE Grants are designed to fund direct costs of students including travel, lodging, food, registration fees, printing and preparation of presentation materials (e.g. posters, audio-visual materials). Grant amounts are based on federal per diem rates for transportation, lodging, meals and incidental expenses, where applicable. Funds cannot be used for student stipends, direct research costs, or faculty research/administration costs.

The majority of student applicants wanted travel funds in order to attend AFE's Interior West Fire Ecology Conference in Snowbird, Utah this November. One student applicant wanted funds to attend the IAWF's Human Dimensions of Fire Conference in Seattle, Washington next April. Two student applicants wanted to attend a workshop at the Missoula Fire Sciences Lab this November. All student applicants intend to present examples of their research at these events,

mostly oral presentations but also some posters. TREE Grants will thus be used to attend two fire conferences and visits to the Missoula Fire Lab.

Those students who are granted awards will receive funds directly from AFE in a single lump sum. Within six to nine months of receiving an award, students will complete a report (space will be made available on the same form) describing accomplishments, a summary of expenses, and results and products. Students will be expected to keep detailed records of the expenses in their personal files, but these will not be required by AFE.

Summary Comments

Given the relatively short time frame to advertise the TREE Grants, and the difficulties of communicating with students over the summer break, it is remarkable how many requests for grant applications we received in just a few week's time when schools resumed in the fall. This is a sign that the program is appealing, and may become more popular as we have additional time and opportunities to conduct outreach and advertising if funding for the grants is renewed. The program also seems to be meeting intended goals of encouraging students to present their research at professional gatherings. Every applicant expressed their interest in giving an oral or poster presentation of their research. We do not know yet whether or not the TREE Grants provided an incentive for students to travel and present research that they might not have done without the grants, or if it merely facilitated the needs of students who were intending to present their work regardless of the benefit of TREE Grants. We may poll the 2011 awardees to see if the TREE Grants influenced their decisions to submit proposals for conference presentations or not.

The Association for Fire Ecology wishes to thank the Joint Fire Sciences Program for this wonderful opportunity to facilitate students traveling to fire conferences and the fire lab. It is our hope that the TREE Grant Program will be renewed for the 2012 fiscal year, and we can continue to help further student research through their participation in gatherings of fire professionals. If there are any questions or needs for additional information, please contact Timothy Ingalsbee, Co-Director of AFE, at tim@fireecology.net or 541-852-7903.

Appendix One: 2011 TREE Grant Recipients

Name	School	Degree/Year	Date	Event
Amber Shanklin	Colorado State Univ.	Master's 3 rd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Anna Morgante	Humboldt State Univ.	Master's 3 rd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
April Hulet	Brigham Young Univ.	Doctoral 3 rd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Brittany Compton	Stephen F. Austin State Univ.	Bachelor's Senior	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Brooke Cassell	Univ. of Washington	Master's 2 nd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Chase Taylor	Texas Tech. Univ.	Master's 1 st year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Chris Dunn	Oregon State Univ.	Doctoral 3 rd year	11/9/11 11/15/11	USFS Missoula Fire Lab/ AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Christine Droske	Univ. of Idaho	Master's 1 st year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Dani Mazzotta	Oregon State Univ.	Master's 2 nd year	4/17/12	IAWF Human Dimensions of Fire Conf.
David Godwin	Univ. of Florida	Doctoral 3 rd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Elizabeth Bauer and UI-8	Univ. of Idaho	Bachelor's Juniors & Seniors	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Emily Comfort	Oregon State Univ.	Doctoral 3 rd year	11/9/11 11/15/11	USFS Missoula Fire Lab/ AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Garren Andrews	Cal. Poly Tech. Univ.	Master's 2 nd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Garrett Meigs	Oregon State Univ.	Doctoral 2 nd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Jesse Kreye	Univ. of Florida	Doctoral 4 th year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Kerry Kemp	Univ. of Idaho	Doctoral 2 nd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Kevin Krasnow	Univ. of Calif. at Berkeley	Doctoral 5 th year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Lauren Poulos	Univ. of Oregon	Master's 1 st year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Penny Whisenant	Stephen F. Austin State Univ.	Bachelor's Senior	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.
Sharon Hood	Univ. of Montana	Master's 2 nd year	11/15/11	AFE Interior West Fire Ecology Conf.

Appendix Two: TREE Grant Application Form



Travel, Research, and Educational Experience (TREE) Grant Application Form

The TREE Grant Program by the Association for Fire Ecology (AFE) and the Joint Fire Sciences Program (JFSP) is designed to help students travel to attend conferences, symposia, workshops, and laboratories dealing with wildland fire science and management. All registered Graduate and undergraduate students in good academic standing in a field related to wildland fire science, ecology, or management will be eligible to apply for grants. Depending on costs and number of applicants, grants may fund all or a portion of estimated travel expenses including transportation, lodging, meals, registration fees, and incidental expenses, where applicable. Funds cannot be used for student stipends, direct research costs, or faculty research/administration costs. Grants are limited and competitively awarded, with special preference for students planning to make an oral or poster presentation at a fire conference.

NOTE: APPLICANTS MUST HAVE ADVISOR RECOMMENDATION.

Please have your advisor send a separate email answering the following questions to office@fireecology.net.

- Is this student pursuing wildland fire research projects?
- Is this student in good academic standing?
- Would this student be a good candidate for a grant for travel assistance?
- Is there anything else you want us to know in considering this applicant for a grant?

Student Checklist:

- θ Completed Application submitted by due date.
- θ Advisor has answered the above questions in a separate email.
- θ Student's Curriculum Vitae or Resume is attached.
- θ Student agrees to submit a grant report within 6-9 months of the grant award. The grant report form will be sent to you with the grant award notification letter.

The deadline for your TREE Grant application is 60 days before the start of the event you would like to attend. The grant committee will respond to your request within in 30 days of that deadline.

To submit grant applications, or for more information, contact:

AFE Co-Directors Dr. Timothy Ingalsbee or Catia Juliana at 541-852-7903 or office@fireecology.net.

TREE Grant Application

Name:	School:
Program & Year:	Department:
Home Address: (City/State/Zip)	Advisor:
Student Phone: Email:	Advisor Phone: Email:
Name, Date, and Location of the event you would like to attend:	
How is this event relevant to your area of study/research? Briefly describe your objectives, approach, and significance of your research project.	
Are you planning to give a presentation at this event? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Oral Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Poster Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Title of your Presentation:	
Briefly describe your presentation: (you may copy and paste an abstract up to 250 words)	
Have you received a travel grant from AFE or JFSP in the past? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, Grant Amount:	
Conference Name, Location, & Date:	

BUDGET: Grants range from \$250 - \$2,500		Amount:
Transportation		
Lodging		
Food (# of days @ federal per diem rates)		
Registration Fees		
Printing & Preparation of Presentation Materials		
Other:		
TOTAL REQUESTED		

For Office Use Only		
Application Complete <input type="checkbox"/>	CV or Resume Attached <input type="checkbox"/>	Signed by Advisor <input type="checkbox"/>
Declined <input type="checkbox"/>	Approved <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount:
Date Grant Report Due:	Date Report Received:	Check when complete <input type="checkbox"/>

Appendix Three: Example of Outreach Material Used to Advertise TREE Grant Program

Announcing the Travel, Research, and Educational Experience (TREE) Grant Program for students in wildland fire.

Here is an exciting new opportunity for students in wildland fire science and management.

The **Association for Fire Ecology** (AFE) and the **Joint Fire Sciences Program** (JFSP) are offering grants up to \$2,500 to fund student travel to attend fire-related conferences, symposia, workshops, and laboratories. These competitively-awarded grants will fund direct travel costs for transportation, lodging, food, registration fees, and printing or preparation of presentation materials (e.g. posters, maps, audio-visual materials). Both Graduate and undergraduate students are eligible to apply.

The objectives of the TREE grant program are to nurture excellence in student research by facilitating active student participation in conferences and in laboratories where you can meet other fire researchers and managers who may provide opportunities for future jobs, internships, or collaborations on research and management projects.

Applying for TREE Grants is a simple process, and any student can apply, but preference for awarding TREE grants goes to students giving oral or poster presentations at fire-related conferences. Presentations may be for theses/dissertation research, completed research projects, or works-in-progress. For students who have never attended a fire conference before, receiving a TREE Grant and giving an oral or poster presentation would make attractive vitae entries for your emerging careers.

This November 14-17th, AFE's **Interior West Fire Ecology Conference** in Snowbird, Utah offers an excellent opportunity for students to utilize TREE grants. This conference will feature a Special Session for student presenters, a poster session giving awards to the best student posters, and other special meetings and events for student attendees organized by SAFE. For more information on AFE's Interior West Fire Ecology Conference, go to <http://humboldt.edu/iwfire/>

The **deadline is September 10th for submitting abstracts** (up to 250 words) to participate in the Interior West Conference's student special session. Send abstracts to tim@fireecology.net and put "Student Abstract" in the subject heading.

The **deadline is September 15th for TREE grant applications** to attend the Interior West Fire Ecology Conference. Email office@fireecology.net to receive an application.

For more information on TREE Grants and the Student Special Session at the Interior West conference, please contact Dr. Timothy Ingalsbee or Catia Juliana, Co-Directors of the Association for Fire Ecology, at 541-852-7903 or office@fireecology.net

Please help spread the word about the TREE Grant Program and the special opportunities for students attending the Interior West Fire Ecology Conference. Feel free to forward this email to friends, teachers, and fellow students. Thank you!